NEWS RELEASES

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UNIQUE PROJECT CHARTS SASKATOON'S CULTURAL TERRAIN

The City of Saskatoon, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Manitoba Arts Council, and the Regina-based community arts organization Common Weal, launched a six-week inventory and mapping project of Saskatoon's arts and culture sector on November 21, 2003.

Under the guidance of Robin C. Pacific, a leader in the field of community arts, four cultural animators-in-training will be criss-crossing the city to record who does what, where and when in arts and culture in Saskatoon. The intent of the team is to establish a resource that details the broad range of arts and heritage activities and opportunities available to residents and visitors.

Sue Stewart, Arts and Grants Consultant for the City of Saskatoon, indicated that this information is fundamental to planning for cultural tourism and economic development.

Team members, know as c'Artographers, are: Maggie Dixon, a writer and storyteller and Oin Nicholson, a hip-hop artist and musician, both from South Saskatchewan; Lori Fontaine, a visual artist from Winnipeg; and Crystal Russell, a media and visual artist living in Saskatoon. In the next few weeks the c'Artographers will be contacting arts organizations, individual artists, and people on the street to ask them about the resources they use in their cultural lives and activities.

25th Street Theatre Centre, Inc has generously supplied office space and technology for the project. In January the team will meet to synthesize their findings. They will be preparing a report to be released at a public event shortly thereafter. Saskatoon's mapping exercise is a pilot project for study and possibly adoption by other municipalities and regions.

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